THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRi MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) A double track already exists between Sainthia and Rampur Hat and between Burdwan and Khana. Ther$_e$ is no proposal for doubling rail line between Khana and Sainthia at present.

(b) Does not arise.

मयूरभंज में चलते फिरते डाकघर

1239. श्री सुनील कुमार पटनायक : क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या चालू वर्ष में उड़ीसा के मयूरभंज जिले के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में नए डाकघर और चलते-फिरते डाकघर खोलने का कोई प्रस्ताव सरकार के विचाराधीन है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री संतोष मोहन देव) (क) जी नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

Purchase of boeing 747-300 for AIR India

1240. SHRl DINKARRAO GOVIN DRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to purchase Boeing 747-300 for Air India has been finalised; and

(b) if so, what ar$_e$ the details of the decision taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER"): (a) and (b) The proposal of Air-India for the acquisition of two Boeing 747-300 Combi aircraft is being processed.

Train between Ahmedabad and Cochin

1241. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVIND RAO PATIL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS b$_e$ pleased to state:

(a) whether a new railway train service to link Ahmedabad with Cochin has recently been started; and

, (b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRi MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A new weekly train No. 937(938 Express has been introduced between Ahmedabad $_a$nd Cochin from April, 1987.

Malfunctioning of Navodaya schools in states

1242. SHRI VJSHWHA BANDHU GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Navodaya Vidyalayas recently inaugurated in several States have been started without the necessary infrastructural facilities;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these schools are still following the sam$_e$ syllabi as in other schools; do not have adequate accommodation; are working without the Principals and have not held the annual examinations so far; and

(c) if so, by when thes$_e$ short-comings are likeiy to be removed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNASAHI): (a) to (c) The scheme for setting up Navodaya Vidayalayas has been started in 1986. Initially Navodaya Vidyalayas hav$_e$ been started with the land and permanent! temporary building made available by the State Government [UTs concerned. While substantial rennovation and additions/alterations have been carried out by the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti to make the accommodation suitable for the school, naturally there would be some shortcomings.

These shortcomings will be removed when the Navodaya Vidyalayas have their own buildings. The construction programme for the Navodaya Vidyalayas has been initiated and attempt is being made to complete it in as short a time as possible.

The scheme provides that all the Navodaya Vidyalayas will be affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education. However, since the stu-dents joining a Navodaya Vidyalaya in class VI have mostly studied in the medium of regional language in State Government schools and they cannot switch-over immediately to a different medium or syllabus, as provided in the scheme, instruction has been arranged in the medium of local language with simultaneous teaching of English and Hindi. Naturally, therefore, the students will have to refer to the textbooks in that language, which happen to be the textbooks in use in State Government schools. They will switch-over to CBSE system over a period of time.

All the principals in 83 Navodaya Vidyalayas are in position. Since, the Navodaya Vidyalayas were opened late in 86-S7 students have not had enough time to complete the courses of study. Therefore, it has been decided by the Navodaya Vidayalaya Samiti to extend the academic session and hold annual examinations immediately after the summer vacation in July.

Eradication of major killer diseases among children

1243. SHRl VISHWA BANDHU GUPTA- Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that measles chronic diarrhoea, dip-theria, whooping cough pneumonia; tetanus, poliomyelits and tuberculosis are still the major killer diseases of children in the country;

(b) if so, what was the number of children who died from these diseases during the last three years in the urban and rural areas in the country; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take or have taken to eradicate these children diseases in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir. But in the case of diarrhoea, death is rarely caused and, Foliomyelits generally cause disability.

(b) The data on the deaths due to chronic diarrhoea, pneumonia and vac cine preventable diseases like Diph theria, Whooping cough, Tetanus, Po liomyelitis and Tuberculosis in the country is incomplete, since most of the cases go unreported as they are not taken to the hospitals|dispensaries and also private practitioners and voluntary organisations dispensing medical treatment may not be report ing such casses. The available infor mation on deaths reported by various health institutions | hospitals | dispen saries to Central Bureau of Health In telligence (CBHI) of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare for the last three years are given in the en closed statement (See below). No separate data on deaths in urban and rural areas in available.

(c) The expanded Programme on Immunisation was started hy the Go vernment of India in 1978 with the objective of reducing morbidity, mor tality and disabilities due to diphthe ria Portussis, Tetanus, Poliomyelitis; Tuberculosis and Typhoid fever by making free vaccination services easily available to all eligible children and expectant mothers. Measles va ccination was initiated in 1985-86. To achieve Universal Immunisation by 1990, Government of India has started Universal Immunisation (UIP) during 1985-86 with tlie objective to immu nise 85 per cent of the eligible infants against the six vaccine preventable diseases and to cover IOO per cent of pregnant women with 2 doses of TT.